

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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UNCLAS GENEVA 5236

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: EAID, UNDP
SUBJ: 24TH UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL: AGENDA ITEM (10(C) ACTION BY
BUDGETARY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

REF: GENEVA A151

1. AFTER A DISCUSSION WHICH INCLUDED A WIDE-RANGE OF VIEWS, THE

BUDGETARY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE ADOPTED A DRAFT DECISION ON AGENDA
ITEM 10(C). AGENCY OVERHEAD COSTS: THE DECISION REPRESENTED A
TWO-FOLD COMPROMISE - (A) BETWEEN SOME MEMBERS (ITALY, FRANCE,
GUINEA) WHO OPPOSED THE CREATION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING
GROUP TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION AND ALL OTHER MEMBERS WHO FAVORED
THE CREATION OF SUCH A GROUP; AND (B) BETWEEN SOME MEMBERS
(NORDICS AND NETHERLANDS) WHO DEMANDED CLEAR..AND SOMEWHAT
CONSTRAINING...GUIDELINES FOR THE GROUP AND ALL OTHERS WHO
WANTED THE GROUP'S MANDATE TO BE OPEN-ENDED.

2. THE OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH OF THE DECISION WHICH INCORPORATES THE
FIRST COMPROMISE READS AS FOLLOWS: "DECIDES TO ESTABLISH AN INTER-
GOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON OVERHEAD COSTS, TO WORK DURING
AND ONLY IF NECESSARY BETWEEN SESSIONS, OPEN TO PARTICIPATION
BY ALL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL AS WELL AS OBSERVERS, WITHOUT ANY
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ADDITIONAL COSTS TO THE APPROVED UNDP BUDGET..." THE GROUP
THUS ESTABLISHED IT IS NOW UP TO THE UN COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES
(ON WHICH FRANCE PLAYS A MAJOR ROLE) TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT WILL
ALLOCATE TIME TO THE WORKING GROUP SO THAT IT CAN MEET "WITHOUT
ADDITIONAL COSTS" TO UNDP.

3. THE SECOND COMPROMISE RELATES TO FIVE GUIDELINES PROPOSED

BY SWEDEN, UNDER WHICH THE WORKING GROUP WOULD OPERATE. ALTHOUGH FOUR OF THEM WERE GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE, THE FIFTH PRESENTED PROBLEMS FOR A MAJORITY OF MEMBERS BECAUSE IT REFERRED TO THE "FACT THAT TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES HAVE INCREASINGLY BECOME AN INTEGRAL FUNCTION OF THE AGENCIES..." LED BY THE US, A STRONG MAJORITY ADVOCATED DELETION OF THIS PARAGRAPH OR, AT LEAST, MODIFICATION. THE FINAL (AMBIGUOUS) WORDING READS: "THE FACT THAT SUPPORT FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES HAVE INCREASINGLY BECOME A FUNCTION OF THE AGENCIES."

4. INCLUDED IN THIS DRAFT DECISION WERE THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS: (A) THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF 14 PERCENT WOULD CONTINUE THROUGH 1979; (B) THAT THE CEILING FOR FLEXIBILITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR SMALLER AGENCIES WOULD NOT BE INCREASED; AND (C) THAT \$157,168 WOULD BE REIMBURSED TO ITU FOR 1976, WITHOUT SUCH PAYMENT BEING A PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE PAYMENTS. SORENSON

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